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EDITORIAL

The brief account of the Illinois experiment with oral composition which appears on another page of this issue of the *Journal* **The Investigation of English Teaching** is highly significant. The investigation there referred to represents a kind of activity in which all societies of English teachers should be engaged. The time for instituting reforms of school practice on the basis of unsupported individual opinion is past. Let us get at the truth by community of effort. Students of language, it will be remembered, were the originators of scientific method, and they have done most to refine it. Moreover, the student of a particular subject has certain advantages over the student of education in general. It is easier to learn the methods of educational investigation than it is to master a certain field of knowledge, such as English, so as to work in it with freedom and accuracy. Hence teachers of English must find out for themselves a good many things which no one else can well discover for them. It is for this reason that the Illinois experiment should be imitated.

The secretary of the National Council is making a systematic attempt to enlist the interests of elementary teachers in the work of the society. In most schools there are a few persons **As to Teachers in Elementary Schools** who have given more attention to English than to other branches, and frequently such teachers are assigned to departmental work in the subject. Unlike the majority of the teachers in the lower schools, such teachers can afford to maintain membership in an English association, and they are likely to be able to participate actively in the work of such an association. In anticipation of a hearty response to the appeal which is being made, the editors of the *Journal* are planning to include in each number an article bearing directly upon the problems which are more or less peculiar to the elementary school. Such articles are wanted and will be welcomed.

Some of the readers of the *English Journal* have expressed a desire to send in questions which might be answered briefly in the Round Table or in a special department provided for the purpose. To this request the editors of the *Journal* are happy to respond. Send in your questions. Doubtless in this fashion many matters of practical importance can be treated which would never obtain consideration in any other way.

As already announced, there will be a special meeting of the National Council of Teachers of English at St. Paul about July 9 in connection with the annual convention of the National Education Association. The program for the meeting is not complete, but it has been decided that there will be a joint session with the Library Department of the National Education Association and one or more joint sessions with the Commission on the Reorganization of Secondary Education, as well as the usual platform meeting of the Council. Two of the topics to be discussed at length will be the differentiation of the parts of the English course and the aims and methods of the work in oral expression. The Joint Committee on Secondary English will also submit a second preliminary report. The meeting is certain to be of deep interest and great profit.